

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-03 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 PA-03 CIAE-00

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R 200550Z AUG 73 ZDK

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7950

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8338

USIAC

FOR IEA/IOP ALSO PASS DEA (BNDD)

STATE FOR EA

EO 11652: N/A

1. WE DELIVERED FOLLOWING LETTER TO HONG KONG NEWS-PAPERS AT THE REQUEST OF FIVE CONGRESSMEN AND THE WOLFF DEPARTURE STATEMENT AT HIS REQUEST IN TIME FOR AM PAPERS AUGUST 21:

2. (BEGIN QUOTE) DEAR EDITOR: IN THE AUGUST 18TH EDITION OF A HONG KONG NEWSPAPER A UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN WAS QUOTED AS THREATENING CERTAIN SANCTIONS BY THE US GOVERNMENT IF APPROPRIATE COOPERATION IS NOT PROVIDED BY HONG KONG AUTHORITIES IN EFFORTS TO CURB TRAFFIC IN DRUGS.

3. IF THE CONGRESSMAN WAS ACCURATELY QUOTED, THE CRITICAL EDITORIAL IN THE SAME EDITION WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AMPLY JUSTIFIED. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE UNDERSIGNED UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT : (1) THE REMARKS MADE BY THE GENTLEMAN REPRESENT ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND OPINIONS. (2) THE GENTLEMAN SPOKE WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT. (3) WE
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DO NOT AGREE WITH THE REMARKS AND OPINIONS ALLEGEDLY

EXPRESSED BY THE GENTLEMAN. (4) WE REGRET ANY IMPLICATIONS OF CRITICISM DIRECTED AGAINST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

4. SIGNED: GARNER E SHRIVER, WILLIAM A STEIGER,
MARVIN L ESCH, WILLIAM S COHEN, LAWRENCE J HOGAN
(END QUOTE)

5. WOLFF DEPARTURE STATEMENT:(BEGIN QUOTE) THE UNITED STATES, IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE MANUFACTURE AND SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS, HAS NE DESIRE TO IMPOSE ITSELF ON THE AUTONOMY OF HONG KONG OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT.

6. THE PROBLEM WE FIND IS NOT A LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. RATHER, IT IS A QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION AS TO WHAT COOPERATION INFERS. WE FIND THERE IS NO SOLID EVIDENCE AVAILABLE AS TO THE AMOUNT OF DRUGS TRANSITING HONG KONG THAT ARE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG AS AN ENTREPOT PORT AND INABILITY TO EXERCISE SUFFICIENT SURVEILLANCE TO CONTROL THE DRUG TRAFFIC. HONG KONG IS A FREE PORT WITH A GREAT VOLUME OF TRAVELERS AND FREIGHT PASSING THROUGH. IT IS AN AREA OF GREAT POTENTIALITY TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKER WHO CAN UTILIZE THE AIR TRAFFIC AND SHIP TRAFFIC STOPPING OVER IN HONG KONG.

7. DURING MY STAY HERE, I HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH BOTH HONG KONG AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS. I LEAVE HERE OPTOMISTIC THAT OUR FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR CONTINUING AND INCREASED COOPERATION THAT WILL OPERATE TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND , THROUGH OUR COORDINATED EFFORTS, WE CAN GREATLY REDUCE THIS SCOURGE.

(END QUOTE WOLFF STATEMENT)

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